

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is considered the invention. The Office Action states that phrases such as "calcium carbonate master-batch (M₁B 40 - 70%)" and "titanium dioxide master-batch (M₁B 30 - 60%)" render the claims unclear. Applicant respectfully submits that as used throughout the specification and claims, the terms "calcium carbonate master-batch (M₁B 40 - 70%)" and "titanium dioxide master-batch (M₁B 30 - 60%)" mean that an inorganic master batch is formed by blending the inorganic powder in a polypropylene primary raw material in an amount of 40-70 wt. % of calcium with 30-60 wt. % being polypropylene; and 30-60% titanium dioxide with 70-40% wt.% being polypropylene, as expressed in the preamble of claims 1 and 3. It is this inorganic master batch which is then blended with the other components for form the compositions recited by features (1) and (2) of claims 1-5.

The Office Action additionally asserts that claim 3 is indefinite as the recited lists of inorganic materials appear to

broaden claim 1. In response, claim 3 has been amended to be in independent form.

The claim amendments are considered to be non-narrowing, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2000-211008 in view of Lin (U.S. Patent No. 5,552,011), and optionally in further view of Schut et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,376,058). The Office Action proposes that JP '008 teaches each recited feature of the claims, except for blending a calcium carbonate master batch (40-70%) and a titanium dioxide master batch (30-60%) with other components, before the compositions are fed into the extruders, for which purpose Lin and Schut et al. are cited.

The Office Action cites column 6, lines 38-62 of Schut et al. as teaching forming an inorganic filled polymeric blend, before feeding the inorganic filled polymeric blend to an extruder, to avoid "dusting" problems associated with titanium dioxide coming to the surface of the composition. However, while Schut et al. teach to include polyethylene, the present claims recite master batch including the inorganic powder and polypropylene. There is no teaching or suggestion in Schut et al. or any other cited prior art that a polypropylene containing master batch will provide "dusting" prevention that the

"polyethylene matrix loaded with TiO₂" provides. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion to substitute polypropylene for polyethylene in Schut et al.

While the Office Action proposes that Lin in combination with JP '008 suggests master batch compositions within the range recited in the present claims, this combination has the deficiency of lacking a teaching of prefabrication, as recited in the present claims.

There is no suggestion or motivation to modify Schut et al. to include polypropylene, and there is no teaching or suggestion to modify Lin in combination with JP '008 to form master batches before being added to the extruders.

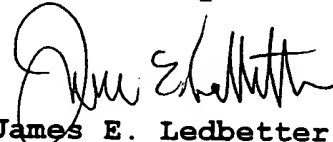
Moreover, the Office Action generically states that "[a]ny difference(s) which might possibly/conceivably exist between envisioned, claimed invention and the teachings of the applied references (not explicitly address by Examiner) is/are held/seen NOT to constitute patentable difference(s)." However, as proscribed by MPEP § 2141, it is the burden of the Examiner to address any differences between the pending claims and the cited references noted by the Applicants by specifically identifying why each difference is insufficient to render the claim unpatentable.

Claim 3 additionally stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '008, in view of Lin and Schut et al. in further view of Tunashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,915). The Tunashima et al. reference has been cited for a teaching of surface treating inorganic powder in forming a master-batch to enhance the properties of an extruded sheet. However, Tunashima et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of JP '008, Lin and Schut et al., as noted above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may be best resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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